**Site Assessment**

Target 1: U.S.S. Alligator

Location: Upper Matecumbe Key, Fl

* Grid: 24o51.00'N, 80o37.02'W
* Underwater Archaeology Branch established a high-probability survey zone that encompassed all of Alligator Reef and a shallow water corridor extending approximately one-and-a-half miles to the northeast of the reef's main portion.
* The entire search area comprised a rectangle measuring 2 miles by 0.5 miles, with a total area of one square mile.
* Representatives have ruled that for the time being, buried targets noted during the survey's ground-trudging operations should remain undisturbed, due to their proximity to concentrations of live coral and turtle grass beds.
* However, the Sanctuary has also stated that the Underwater Archaeology Branch might be allowed to conduct limited sediment removal at specific targets in the future as long as such activity does not run counter to FKNMS's natural resource protection responsibilities.

Target 2: Angustias

Location: Long Key

* Grid: 24 o47.455'N, 80o51.738'W
* The resting place of Angustias today is seldom visited by divers because of low underwater visibility and heavy channel currents.
* The ship's ballast stones cover 6,000 square feet of the channel bottom, which is scoured of sediments due to a steady movement of water that nourishes an abundance of hard and soft coral colonies that grow on the ballast stones.
* Some of the coral formations are quite large and harbor a wide variety of marine life, including groupers, jacks, snappers, angels, as well as barracudas, turtles, and nurse sharks.
* For optimum underwater conditions, Angustias should be visited only at high slack tide by advanced open-water divers, since tidal currents in the Long Key Channel can become treacherous.

Target 3: Herrera

Location: Upper Matecumbe Key, FL

* Grid: 24E54.326'N, 80E35.538'W
* On a white sand bottom with patches of sea grass, Herrera lies in 20 feet of clear seawater.
* The mound of egg-rock ballast lies in a northwest to southeast direction. Marine life abounds and the area seems to be a nursery for fish, lobsters and other crustaceans.
* Sponges, anemones, wrasses, blennies, jellyfish, arrow crabs, banded coral shrimp, fire coral, urchins, damselfish, moray eels, drum, crabs, and baitfish can be readily encountered.

Target 4: H.M.S. Looe

Location: Big Pine Key, Florida

* Grid: 24 oE32.57'N, 81o24.13'W
* Looe Key Reef has large fingers of living coral extending out to sea. The reef has many large overhangs as well as several shallow sandy flats where shelling can be done.
* Looe Key is located 10 nautical miles southwest of the Bahia Honda Channel and is marked by 70 buoys. Depths range from 5 to 70 feet, with deeper areas of the dive occasionally having dangerous currents.
* As a result, this reef is home to a large population of spiny lobsters. Please treat the area with care to ensure that the 7,000 year old coral growth is not harmed.
* This area is the reef flat where large coral formations house many varieties of sea life. While the formations of soft coral are beautiful here, visibility is generally low. The deeper section of the reef where sponges and soft corals are mainly found. This is an area where currents can be dangerous and decompression at the 105 foot depths may be necessary. Divers should use caution when exploring this area.

Target 5: Guerrero

Location: Key Largo, Florida

* Grid: 25 oE15.32'N, 80o14.13'W

**What’s our mission/objective(s)?**

**Plan the dive. Dive the plan.**

Our main objective is to figure out which vessel we have begun exploring. In order to recognize which shipwreck we are diving at, we will investigate, record, and analyze exposed components of the wreck and the vessel’s hull. Based on our research about what each ship contained, what kind of ship it was, and various other pieces of information surrounding each wreck. Once we attain the information from the wreck site, we will compare the extant hull remains of the shipwreck with historical accounts of each ship’s construction and the products it carried.